

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1012

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A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Henry Marshall Parton of Gatlinburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Henry Marshall Parton; and

WHEREAS, Henry Parton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on August 20, 1929, on his family's land at the headwaters of Sugarland Branch, an area which is now part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Henry Parton was the son of the late Fred L. and Cora C. Parton. He and his family moved to Gatlinburg in 1936, and Mr. Parton attended Pi Beta Phi Settlement School in his youth; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Henry Parton worked at the Mountain View Hotel, where he met Ruth Robeson, the woman who would become his wife. The couple married in Georgia before returning to Gatlinburg, where they would build their life together; and

WHEREAS, he joined his uncle and aunt, Joe and Pearl Parton, at Parton's Market, and eventually became a partner in the business with their son, Jim. Together, Henry and Jim Parton became owners of Sevier Dry Goods and Parton's Department Store in Sevierville; and

WHEREAS, Henry Parton later took full ownership of Parton's Market and, in 1974, he opened Parton's Delicatessen, a local and tourist favorite. He and Ruth lived together on a farm in Wears Valley, where he spent his twilight years either working at the delicatessen or sitting on his porch at home, overlooking his land and watching his son's cattle fatten themselves and sometimes fall down from mash they'd eaten provided by friends at the Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parton was an active and devout member of the Valley View Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years, and Roaring Fork Baptist, where he held membership and served as a deacon before the Partons moved to Wears Valley. He was a Sunday school teacher for more than sixty years and was widely renowned for his singing abilities, often singing solos at churches in the area and contributing his voice to the Sunday morning programming at WSEV radio in Sevierville; and

WHEREAS, Henry Parton was deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, along with his parents, Mr. Parton was preceded in death by: his grandson, Nicholas Parton; his sisters, Mary Edna Cicero, Dixie Bales, and Ruby Reagan; his brothers-in-law, Joseph Cicero Garfield Bales, Tolbert Reagan, and Harmon McCarter; his mother-in-law, Beulah Robeson; his father-in-law, George Robeson; his sister-in-law, Jean Robeson; his nephew, Byron Bales; his niece, Jennifer McCarter; and numerous family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Henry Parton is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Ruth Parton; his sons, David Henry Parton, Dennis Brian Parton, and Darrell George Parton; his grandson, Derek Henry Parton; his sister-in-law, Aileen Robeson McCarter; and his cousin, business partner, and best friend, Jim Parton; Jim's wife, Annette Parton; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Henry Parton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Henry Marshall Parton, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Parton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.